

REMARKS

I. Status

Claims 1-18 and 20-34 are pending. Claim 19 has been canceled. Claims 1-15 and 30-34 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite the subject matter of canceled claim 20.

Claim 22 has been amended to be in independent form.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

II. Prior Art Based Rejections

The following prior art based rejections are pending:

- (A) Claims 16, 18, 20, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slezak-US 2005/0170246, (Slezak); and
- (B) Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slezak in view of JP-2001-068121, ('121).

Applicants respectfully traverse Rejection (A) and Rejection (B).

Of the claims under rejection, claim 16 is an independent claim and claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 depend from independent claim 16. In view of the fact that claim 16 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 19, a claim not currently under rejection, both Rejection (A) and Rejection (B) have been rendered moot.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the reference(s) cited in the May 14, 2007 IDS and return a signed and initialed copy of the PTOSB08 form to Applicants with the next communication.

IV. Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawings are acceptable in the next communication to clients.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., Reg. No. 43,575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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